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Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme

Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-2017

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The note sets out the programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016–2017. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians reviewed the programme and subsequently adopted it at its meeting in February 2015.

This document is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption and for recommending it to the Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee for formal approval.

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I. Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme ("the subprogramme") for 2016–2017. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee (Excom) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over outputs will be reflected in the Integrated Monitoring and Document Information System (IMDIS) used by the Secretariat for the planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme. The results of the implementation of the programme of work will be submitted to the Conference and its Bureau in the Programme Performance report for the biennium 2016-2017.

2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (outputs – outcomes – impact) known as 'results chain', the resources (human and financial) known as 'inputs' and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.

3. The outputs/activities in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2016–2017. They fall into the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) other substantive activities; and (c) technical cooperation, including advisory services, training courses, seminars, workshops, and field projects.

4. The outcomes/expected accomplishments, with corresponding indicators of achievement and performance measures are presented in Annex I in the form of a logical framework.

5. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex II. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex III.

II. Objective, strategy and external factors

6. The objective of the subprogramme is to improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the ECE region.

7. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. The subprogramme aims to improve the quality, coverage and timeliness, as well as coherence of official statistics for evidence-based economic, social and environmental policymaking, and for assessing progress towards international development goals and sustainable development.

8. Coordinating international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The strong involvement of national statistical organizations in setting priorities will ensure that the work focuses on addressing the special needs of countries of the region. Cooperation with the statistical services of other UN entities and international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups to develop standards and recommendations, and identify good practices.

9. The subprogramme will work on priorities identified by the ECE member States, with a special focus on measuring sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda; globalization; population, poverty and inequality; promoting modernisation of statistical production; and capacity building. The subprogramme will take into account the recent methodological and technological development in official statistics, including the geospatial information. The work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member States and international organizations in the form of expert groups that perform specific tasks within a set time frame. The work will result in the development of methodological and practical guidelines in statistics, including training materials which will be made available on the web.

10. The subprogramme will provide support and guidance to the ECE member States, particularly those with less developed statistical systems regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and provide advice on institutional frameworks of official statistics, for example, by conducting global assessments of national statistical systems. The advisory work will be demand-driven, focusing on areas where United Nations standards and recommendations exist, such as population censuses, international development goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics, environmental indicators and modernising statistical production.

11. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate statistical information, including on progress towards the achievement of international development goals and gender equality. These statistics will be accessible to the public on the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of dissemination. The data will help to identify priorities for improvement of the quality and comparability of official statistics.

12. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is a willingness to cooperate on the part of international statistical organizations, in particular the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on the part of the national statistical organizations of ECE member countries; (b) resource constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work nor impede the implementation of the resulting standards; (c) sufficient donors' support to the work on modernisation of statistical production; (d) development work carried out by national statistical offices continues on key statistical domains; (e) resources are available in order to provide support for the national statistical organizations of countries with less developed statistical systems; and (f) data needed for the ECE statistical database are made available by the national and international statistical organizations free of charge, and the technological infrastructure is sufficient for databases and web dissemination.

III. Outputs/activities to be delivered during the biennium 2016-2017

A. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget): Conference of European Statisticians

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

1. Annual sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians (10 half-days);

2. Bureau of the Conference (14);

3. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings in the field of demographic and social statistics (36);
4. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings in the field of economic statistics (25);
5. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings in the field of statistical modernisation (44);
6. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings in the field of environment, multi-domain statistics and statistics for sustainable development (18);
7. Regional meetings on Sustainable Development Goals indicators (8).

2. Parliamentary documentation

1. Reports of the annual sessions of the Conference (2 documents);
2. Papers for intergovernmental meetings on environment and multi-domain statistics (4);
3. Papers for intergovernmental meetings on demographic and social statistics (20);
4. Papers for intergovernmental meetings on economic statistics (15);
5. Papers for intergovernmental meetings on statistical modernisation (8);
6. Papers for the coordination of international statistical work in the ECE region (12);
7. Papers on issues of interest to the heads of national statistical offices (12);
8. Papers for the regional meetings on Sustainable Development Goals indicators (2);
9. Annual set of governmental proposals for discussion at the Conference of European Statisticians (approximately 30 documents per each set) (2 sets of documents).

B. Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Non-recurrent publications

1. Statistical monographs (Getting the Facts Right II, a guide to presenting metadata on Sustainable Development Goals);
2. Statistical monographs (Methods in economic statistics);
3. Statistical Standards and Studies (National accounts statistics);
4. Statistical Standards and Studies (Guide on measuring human capital);
5. Methodological materials (Guide on measuring unpaid household work);
6. Methodological materials (Guidelines on poverty measurement);
7. Methodological materials (Measuring emerging forms of migration);
8. UNECE Countries in Figures 2017.

(ii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

1. Booklets/leaflets on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; Conference of European Statisticians, gender and macroeconomic statistics databases, highlights of socio-economic indicators in the region (3 outputs)

(iii) Press releases, press conferences

1. Annual set of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications (2 annual sets)

(iv) Contribution to joint outputs

1. Contribution to international work on development of standards for the modernisation of statistical production and services (2 outputs)
2. Contribution to the United Nations-driven work on statistics of climate change and sustainable development (2)
3. Contributions to international work on developing and harmonizing statistical methodology and tools, including new dissemination techniques and mobile services (1)

(v) Technical material

1. Updated Database of International Statistical Activities (2 annual sets)
2. Updated ECE gender statistics database (2)
3. Updated ECE macroeconomic database (2)
4. Updated database on Millennium/Sustainable Development Goals indicators (2)
5. Updated database on environment and related indicators (2)
6. Maintenance of the website, collaborative websites (wikis) and knowledge bases to facilitate the work of groups of experts and information on activities related to the subprogramme (2)

C. Technical cooperation (regular budget and extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services

1. Ad hoc consultations with experts in national statistical offices on their compilation of statistical data needed by ECE for analytical and publication purposes (3 missions)
2. Consultations with management of national statistical offices on application of international statistical standards, and improvement of national statistical systems (2 missions)

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops

1. Training workshops and seminars under extrabudgetary statistical projects on social, economic and environmental statistics and on modernisation of statistical production (5 workshops)
2. Meetings, training workshops and seminars within the framework of the UN Development Account project (4 workshops)

Annex I

The expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures for 2016-2017

Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Streamlined international statistical work	(a) (i) Number of international organizations contributing to the statistical work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its subsidiary bodies *Performance measures* 2012-2013: n/a Estimate 2014-2015: n/a Target 2016-2017: 25 organizations (ii) Number of statistical areas reviewed in depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 5 areas Estimate 2014-2015: 5 areas Target 2016-2017: 5 areas
(b) Updated and newly developed standards and recommendations to enhance international comparability of statistics	(b) (i) Number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations developed with ECE contribution *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 6 new or revised standards and recommendations Estimate 2014-2015: 5 new or revised standards and recommendations Target 2016-2017: 6 new or revised standards and recommendations (ii) Number of statistical areas (according to the ECE Classification of Statistical Activities) to which ECE makes substantive methodological contributions *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 27 areas Estimate 2014-2015: 27 areas Target 2016-2017: 27 areas

(c) Improved national capacities to implement international standards and recommendations in official statistics, including on international development goals and gender-sensitive indicators	(c) (i) Number of countries with less developed statistical systems that implement recommendations from global assessments of national statistical systems in their strategies for statistical development *Performance measures* 2012-2013: n/a Estimate 2014-2015: n/a Target 2016-2017: 6 countries (ii) Percentage of national experts that express satisfaction with the relevance and quality of ECE advisory services, training courses and workshops *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 80 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 85 per cent Target 2016-2017: 85 per cent
(d) Improved availability and increased use of statistics from the ECE database, in particular related to international development goals, gender equality, key socio-economic indicators and sustainable development in support of evidence-based policymaking in ECE member States	(d) (i) Number of downloads of statistical data from the ECE statistical database *Performance measures* 2012-2013: n/a Estimate 2014-2015: n/a Target 2016-2017: 600,000 downloads (ii) Percentage of users that express satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE statistical database *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 80 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 80 per cent Target 2016-2017: 80 per cent

Annex II

Details of proposed publications for 2016-2017

A. Non-recurrent publications

Item no.	*Title*	*Mandate*	*Print and or electronic*	*Size*	*No. of pages*	*Original language(s)*	*Translated language(s)*	*No. of copies and language(s)*
1	Statistical monographs (Getting the Facts Right II, a guide to presenting metadata on Sustainable Development Goals)	ECE decision A(65), Annex III, para 12(a); ECE/CES[1]/85, para 73 (PoW[2])	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R	500E/300R
2	Statistical monographs (Methods in economic statistics)	ECE decision A(65), Annex III, para 12(a); ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW); EXCOM[3]/CONCL U/69, para 27; ECE/CES/GE.20[4]/ 2014/2, para 13	Print and electronic	A4	200	E		500E/ -
3	Statistical Standards and Studies (Guide on measuring human capital)	EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 26; ECE/CES/85, para 53	Print and electronic	A4	120	E	R	400E/100R
4	Statistical Standards and Studies (National accounts statistics)	UNSC[5]/E/2013/24 decision 44/103; EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 27; ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW); ECE/CES/GE.20/ 2014/2, para 55	Print and electronic	A4	200	E	R	500E/200R
5	Methodological materials (Guide on measuring unpaid household work)	ECE decision A(65), Annex III, para 12(a); ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW); ECE/CES/BUR[6]/2 014/OCT/28, para 24	Electronic	A4	100	E	R	

[1] CES = Conference of European Statisticians
[2] PoW = Programme of Work
[3] EXCOM = ECE Executive Committee
[4] GE.20 = Expert Group on National Accounts
[5] UNSC = United Nations Statistical Commission
[6] BUR = The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

6	Methodological materials (Guidelines on poverty measurement)	EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 26, ECE/CES/85, para 57-61, ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/24, para 21	Print and electronic	A4	120	E	R	500E/200R
7	Methodological materials (Measuring emerging forms of migration)	EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 27, ECE/CES/87, para 36(d), ECE/CES/BUR/2013/FEB/25, para 60	Electronic	A4	150	E	R	
8	UNECE countries in figures 2017	ECE decision A(65), Annex III, para 12(a), ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW)	Print and electronic	A5	145	E		500E / -

B. Promotional material

Item no.	*Title*	*Mandate*	*Print and/or electronic*	*Size*	*No. of pages*	*Original language(s)*	*Translated language(s)*	*No. of copies and language(s)*
1	Booklets on the Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW), EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 27	Print	A4	35	E	R, F	150E, 150F, 150R
2	Leaflet on the Official Statistics, Conference of European Statisticians' work	ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW), EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 27	Print	A5	6	E	R, F	200E, 200F, 200R
3	Leaflet on the Official Statistics, Conference of European Statisticians' work	ECE/CES/85, para 73 (PoW), EXCOM/CONCL U/69, para 27	Print	A5	8	E	R, F	200E, 200F, 200R

Annex III

Legislative mandates

A. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. General Assembly resolutions

Res No.	*Title*
65/170	International migration and development
66/127	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
66/130	Women and political participation
66/288	The future we want
67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
67/219	International migration and development
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
68/211	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
68/216	Harmony with Nature
68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

2. Economic and Social Council resolutions

Res No.	*Title*
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2012/2	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
2013/28	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2013/37	Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development
2014/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

Dec No	*Title*
C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

4. United Nations Statistical Commission decisions

Res No	*Title*
38/111	Statistical capacity-building
39/112	Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
40/105	National accounts
40/110	Gender statistics
41/104	Statistics of international trade in services
41/112	Development indicators
42/102	Programme review: Gender statistics
42/104	Environmental-economic accounting
42/107	Short-term economic indicators
42/111	Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
43/101	Programme review: population and housing censuses
43/110	National quality assurance frameworks
43/115	Regional statistical development in Europe
44/101	Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems
44/105	Environment statistics
44/111	Health statistics
45/101	Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
45/103	Programme review: broader measures of progress
45/104	National accounts
45/106	International trade and economic globalization statistics
45/110	Big data and modernization of statistical systems
45/112	Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system